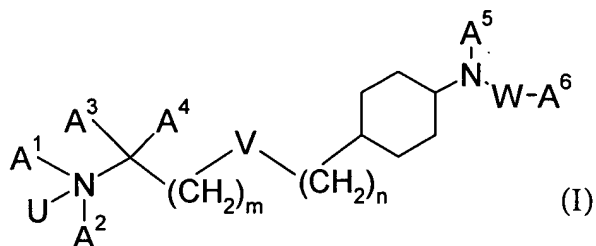


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula (I)

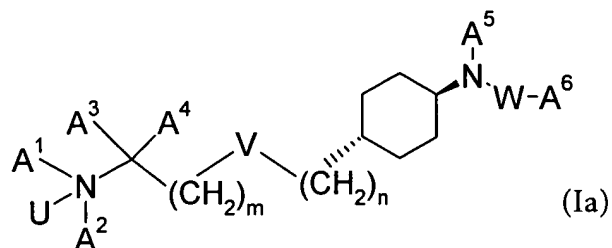


wherein

- U is O or a lone pair;
- V is -CH₂-, -CH=CH-, or -C≡C-;
- W is CO, COO, CONR¹, CSO, CSNR¹, SO₂, or SO₂NR¹;
- m and n are each integers from 0 to 7, with the provisos that m+n is 0 to 7 and m is not 0 when V is O or S;
- A¹ is H, lower-alkyl, hydroxy-lower-alkyl, or lower-alkenyl; and
- A² is lower-alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower-alkyl, or lower-alkenyl, optionally substituted by R²
- A³ and A⁴ are each hydrogen or lower-alkyl
- A⁵ is H, lower-alkyl, lower-alkenyl, or aryl-lower-alkyl;
- A⁶ is lower-alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl-lower-alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl-lower-alkyl, lower-alkoxy-carbonyl-lower-alkyl;
- R² is hydroxy, hydroxy-lower-alkyl, lower-alkoxy, lower-alkoxycarbonyl, N(R⁴, R⁵), or thio-lower-alkoxy; and
- R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁵ independently from each other are hydrogen or lower-alkyl; or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (I), and or pharmaceutically acceptable esters of the compounds of formula (I).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula (Ia):



wherein U, V, W, m, n, A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵ and A⁶ are as defined in claim 1; or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (Ia); and or pharmaceutically acceptable esters of the compounds of formula (Ia).

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein U is a lone pair.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The compound according to claim 4, wherein V is -CH₂-.
7. (Original) The compound according to claim 4, wherein V is -C=C-.
8. (Original) The compound according to claim 4, wherein V is -C≡C-.
9. (Original) The compound according to claim 4, wherein W is CO, COO, CONR¹, CSNR¹, SO₂ or SO₂NR¹ and R¹ is hydrogen.
10. (Original) The compound according to claim 9, wherein W is COO or SO₂.
11. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein n is 0.
12. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein n is 1.

13. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein m is 1 to 6.
14. (Original) The compound according to claims 10, wherein m is 0 and V is -C=C- or -C≡C-.
15. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein A¹ is H, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, 2-hydroxy-ethyl, or 2-propenyl.
16. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein A² is lower-alkyl, cycloalkyl-lower-alkyl, or lower-alkenyl, optionally substituted with R₂, wherein R₂ is hydroxy, methoxy, or ethoxycarbonyl.
17. (Original) The compound according to claim 16, wherein A² is methyl, ethyl, 2-hydroxy-ethyl, 2-propenyl, propyl or isopropyl.
- 18-20. (Canceled)
21. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein A³ is hydrogen.
22. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein A⁴ is hydrogen.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein A⁵ is H, lower-alkyl, lower-alkenyl, or benzyl optionally substituted with halogen.
25. (Original) The compounds according to claim 24, wherein A⁵ is methyl or ethyl.
26. (Original) The compound according to claim 25, wherein A⁶ is lower-alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, phenyl-lower-alkyl, pyridyl, indolyl, indolynyl, thienyl, thienyl-methylene, furyl-methylene, benzodioxyl, chinolyl, isoxazolyl, or imidazolyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of lower-alkyl, lower-alkoxy, lower-alkylcarbonyl, lower-alkoxycarbonyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, CN, CF₃, NO₂, or N(R⁶, R⁷), wherein R⁶ and R⁷ independently from each other are hydrogen or lower-alkyl.

27. (Original) The compound according to claim 26, wherein A^6 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and CF_3 .

28. (Original) The compound according to claim 27, wherein A^6 is 4-chloro-phenyl, 4-bromo-phenyl, or 4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl.

29. (Original) The compound according to claim 28, wherein A^1 is H, lower alkyl or hydroxy-lower alkyl and A^2 is lower alkyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl or lower alkenyl.

30. (Original) The compound according to claim 29, wherein A^3 and A^4 are hydrogen.

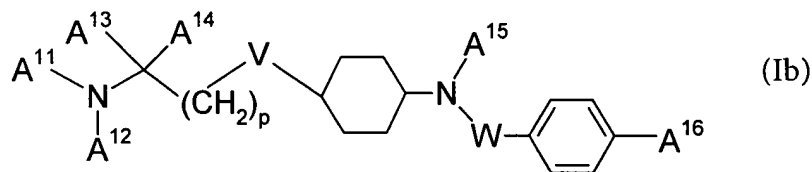
31-33. (Canceled)

34. (Original) The compound according to claim 30, wherein V is $-CH_2-$.

35. (Original) The compound according to claim 30, wherein V is $-C=C-$.

36. (Original) The compound according to claim 30, wherein V is $-C\equiv C-$.

37. (Currently amended) A compound ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ compounds of formula (Ib):



wherein

V is $-CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, or $-C\equiv C-$;

W is COO or SO_2 ;

p is an integer from 0 to 7, ~~with the proviso that p is not 0 when V is O or S;~~

A¹¹ is H, lower-alkyl, or hydroxy-lower-alkyl,

A¹² is lower-alkyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl, or lower-alkenyl

A¹³ and A¹⁴ are each hydrogen;

A¹⁵ is lower-alkyl; and

A¹⁶ is halogen or trifluoromethyl; or

pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (Ib), and or

pharmaceutically acceptable esters of the compounds of formula(Ib).

38. (Previously amended) The compound according to claim 37, wherein A¹¹ is H, lower-alkyl, or hydroxy-lower-alkyl and A¹² is lower-alkyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl, or lower-alkenyl.

39. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 38, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-N-{4-[2-(1-dimethylamino-cyclopropyl)-ethoxy]-cyclohexyl}-N-methyl-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

40. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 37, ~~whereon~~ wherein A¹³ and A¹⁴ are hydrogen.

41. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 40, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-4-bromo-N-methyl-N-[4-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-cyclohexyl]-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

42. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 40, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-methyl-[4-(4-piperidin-1-yl-butyl)-cyclohexyl]-carbamic acid 4-bromo-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

43. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 40, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-N-methyl-N-[4-(4-piperidin-1-yl-butyl)-cyclohexyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

44. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 40, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-methyl-[4-(5-piperidin-1-yl-pentyl)-cyclohexyl]-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

45. (Original) The compound according to claim 40, wherein A¹¹ is H, lower-alkyl, or hydroxy-lower-alkyl and A¹² is lower-alkyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl, or lower-alkenyl.

46-62. (Canceled).

63. (Original) The compound according to claim 45, wherein V is -CH₂-.

64. (Original) The compound according to claim 63, wherein W is COO.

65. (Original) The compound according to claim 64, wherein A¹¹ is H.

66. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 65, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-methyl-[4-(5-methylamino-pentyl)-cyclohexyl]-carbamic acid 4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

67. (Original) The compound according to claim 64, wherein A¹¹ is methyl.

68. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 67, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-{4-[5-(allyl-methyl-amino)-pentyl]-cyclohexyl}-methyl-carbamic acid 4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

69. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 67, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-{4-[5-(allyl-methyl-amino)-pentyl]-cyclohexyl}-methyl-carbamic acid 4-bromo-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

70. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 67, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-{4-[5-(allyl-methyl-amino)-pentyl]-cyclohexyl}-methyl-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

71. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 67, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-{4-[4-(allyl-methyl-amino)-butyl]-cyclohexyl}-methyl-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

72. (Original) The compound according to claim 64, wherein A¹¹ is ethyl.

73. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 72, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-(4-{5-[ethyl-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-pentyl}-cyclohexyl)-methyl-carbamic acid 4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

74. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 72, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-(4-{5-[ethyl-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-pentyl}-cyclohexyl)-methyl-carbamic acid 4-bromo-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

75. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 72, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-(4-{3-[ethyl-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-propyl}-cyclohexyl)-methyl-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

76. (Original) The compound according to claim 63, wherein W is SO₂.

77. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 76, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-N-{4-[5-(allyl-methyl-amino)-pentyl]-cyclohexyl}-N-methyl-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

78. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 76, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-N-(4-{5-[ethyl-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-pentyl}-cyclohexyl)-N-methyl-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

79. (Original) The compound according to claim 45, wherein V is -C=C-.

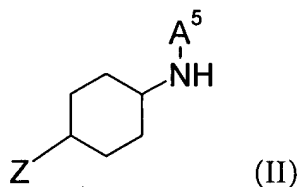
80. (Original) The compound according to claim 79, wherein W is COO.
81. (Original) The compound according to claim 79, wherein W is SO₂.
82. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 81, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-(1E)-N-methyl-N-{4-[3-(methyl-propyl-amino)-propenyl]-cyclohexyl}-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.
83. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 81, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-(1E)-N-(4-{3-[ethyl-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-propenyl}-cyclohexyl)-N-methyl-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.
84. (Original) The compound according to claim 45, wherein V is -C≡C-.
85. (Original) The compound according to claim 84, wherein W is COO.
86. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 85, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-{4-[3-(allyl-methyl-amino)-prop-1-ynyl]-cyclohexyl}-methyl-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.
87. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 85, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-(4-{5-[ethyl-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-pent-1-ynyl}-cyclohexyl)-methyl-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.
88. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 85, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-methyl-{4-[3-(methyl-propyl-amino)-prop-1-ynyl]-cyclohexyl}-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.
89. (Original) The compound according to claim 84, wherein W is SO₂.

90. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 89, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-N-[4-(4-dimethylamino-but-1-ynyl)-cyclohexyl]-N-methyl-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

91. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 89, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-N-methyl-N-{4-[4-(methyl-propyl-amino)-but-1-ynyl]-cyclohexyl}-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

92. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 89, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-N-(4-{4-[ethyl-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-but-1-ynyl}-cyclohexyl)-N-methyl-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonamide, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

93. (Original) A process for the manufacture of a compound according to claim 1, comprising reacting a compound of formula (II):



wherein

A⁵ is as defined in claim 1,

Z is a group (A¹, A²)N-C(A³, A⁴)-(CH₂)_m-V-(CH₂)_n or HO-(CH₂)_n, wherein A¹, A², A³, A⁴, V, m and n are defined as in claim 1,

with ClSO₂-A⁶, ClCOO-A⁶, ClCSO-A⁶, OCN-A⁶, SCN-A⁶, HOOC-A⁶, or ClSO₂NR¹-A⁶, wherein A⁶ is as defined in claim 1.

94. (Previously added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

95. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 36, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-methyl-{4-[5-(methyl-propyl-amino)-pent-1-ynyl]-cyclohexyl}-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

96. (Previously added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 95 and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

97. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 85, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ wherein the compound is trans-methyl-{4-[5-(methyl-propyl-amino)-pent-1-ynyl]-cyclohexyl}-carbamic acid 4-chloro-phenyl ester, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof.

98. (Previously added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 97 and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.